

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**  
**DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**  
**NEWS RELEASE**



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
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**INSEASON ASSESSMENT OF UPPER COOK INLET SOCKEYE SALMON RUN  
THROUGH JULY 24, 2018**

On July 24, 2018, Upper Cook Inlet (UCI) Commercial Fisheries staff estimated the Kenai River sockeye salmon run will be less than 2.3 million fish.

With this inseason assessment, management of the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet and Central District drift gillnet commercial fisheries changes to the regulations for run sizes less than 2.3 million Kenai River sockeye salmon. Based on this projected run size, the Kenai River sockeye salmon inriver goal range is 900,000–1,100,000 fish. Through July 31, management of the Kenai and Kasilof section set gillnet fisheries will continue to follow provisions in 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(B) *Kenai River Late- Run King Salmon Management Plan*, which allow for no more than 24 hours of fishing time per week. The East Foreland Section set gillnet fishery is exempt from the restrictive provisions in 5 AAC 21.359(e)(3)(B) and will continue to be managed per provisions in 5 AAC 21.360 *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*.

Beginning August 1, the entire Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery will be managed according to the *Kenai River Late-Run Sockeye Salmon Management Plan*. Per this management plan, for Kenai River sockeye salmon runs less than 2.3 million fish, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery may fish regular Monday & Thursday 12-hour weekly fishing periods, and up to 24 hours of additional fishing time per week. There are no mandatory no-fishing “windows” for Kenai River sockeye salmon runs less than 2.3 million fish.

For the drift gillnet commercial fishery, a change in Kenai River sockeye salmon run size to less than 2.3 million fish means that all regular Monday and Thursday fishing periods will be restricted to the Expanded Kenai and Expanded Kasilof sections of the Upper Subdistrict through July 31. Beginning August 1, regular Monday and Thursday fishing periods in the Central District drift fishery may be fished in all waters of the Central District.

Finally, 5 AAC 21.365 *Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan* states that achieving the lower end of the Kenai River sockeye salmon escapement goal shall take priority over not exceeding the upper end of the Kasilof River optimal escapement goal of 160,000–390,000 fish.